

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write to express our strong support for providing immediate fiscal relief for state Medicaid programs by further enhancing the federal match by 5.8 percentage points, to a total of 12 percentage points when combined with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act's (FFCRA) 6.2 percentage point enhancement with the same crucial maintenance of effort requirements provided in FFRCA. In addition, we believe the federal match for state Medicaid administrative activities should be increased to 75 percent.

Medicaid provides a vital health care safety net for more than 72 million Americans and can only effectively function with the help of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for state Medicaid expenditures. Medicaid remains one of the single largest expenditures in state budgets every year and the cost continues to increase alongside prescription drug prices.

Since March 14, 2020, more than 22 million Americans have filed new unemployment claims. Twenty-one states have seen more than one in 10 eligible workers file for claims while some states have seen numbers as high as one in six workers. As we continue to fight this public health crisis, unemployment percentages may raise to the high teens, resulting in not only overwhelmed unemployment offices, but a never before seen increase in Medicaid applicants and recipients. State budgets are simply not prepared to handle this increase in cost and if we do not intervene, they may have to make draconian cuts to other vital programs, including education and infrastructure. We must take more significant action to ensure Medicaid provider infrastructure remains fiscally sound during this crisis and that it does not trigger another crisis by obliterating state budgets.

An additional FMAP enhancement of 5.8 percentage points will help provide states with the fiscal support necessary to meet increasing demands on Medicaid programs. As with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, this enhancement should also apply directly to the

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). An additional increase in the federal match for state Medicaid administrative activities to 75 percent should also help states manage an increase in enrollment applications and allow states to reinvest in other vital programs during this crisis.

For these reasons, we support increasing the Medicaid federal match, CHIP federal match, and state Medicaid administrative activities federal match with the same crucial maintenance of effort requirements provided in FFRCA.

Sincerely,



Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Shelia Jackson Lee

Steve Cohen

Raúl M. Grijalva

Rosa DeLauro

Abigail D. Spanberger

André Carson

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Denny Heck

Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Jahana Hayes

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Lloyd Doggett

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Dina Titus

Chellie Pingree

David E. Price

Adam Smith

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.